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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001-2008

23 July 1946

TO: SAINT. WASHINGTON
FROM: SAINT. LONDON
SUBJECT: Siegfried Erich BIRN

1. Attached is a report, 032/Case No.
125/BIRN, above subject, dated 25 June 1946.

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT



584

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27 JUL 1946

032/CASE No. 0428/BINZ.

DATE

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PAGE ONE

SURNAME: BINZ. First Names: SIGMUND, Erich.

ALIAS: -

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: 12 March '98. - OSTSEEERAD BINZ, ISLAND OF RUEGEN.

NATIONALITY CLAIMED: GERMAN.

LAST PERMANENT ADDRESS: RECKLINGHAUSEN, BISMARCKSTR. 22.

OCCUPATION: Police Officer - SCHUPO - (Oberstleutnant).

RELIGION: Ggl. (since '39).

POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS: N.S.D.A.P. (since '33 - no Party book or number).
D.D.N. (since '37).
N.S.K.K. (from '33 - '34).

LANGUAGES: DUTCH (good).
DANISH (a little).

IDENTITY DOCUMENTS: SCHUPO Identity Card No 4 - V. Issued in RECKLINGHAUSEN on 6.1.38.
Certificate of discharge - Control Form D.2. No. 210,304 - Issued by AMERICANS - Countersigned by D.C.U. on 11.9.45. near HANOVER.

MARRIED OR SINGLE: MARRIED.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF WIFE: FRIEDRICH nee HIPPIUS - RECKLINGHAUSEN, BISMARCKSTR. 22. Age 34 yrs. Housewife.

FAMILY: DAUGHTER: UTA - 6 yrs. old.
SON: UDO - 3 yrs. old.
FATHER: FRIEDRICH - 76 yrs. old. House owner.
OSTSEEERAD BINZ, ISLAND RUEGEN.
MOTHER: FRIEDRICH - Died in '45.
BROTHER: ADALBERT - Ca 44 yrs. old. Missing on E. Front since '43. Uffz.

DETAILS OF ARREST: DATE: 7.6.46.
PLACE: RECKLINGHAUSEN.
REASON: Security Suspect.
BY: 68 Int. Team ex. 59 P.S.S.

CONTINUED TO PAGE TWO/FIRST INTERROGATION REPORT.

(over)

FIRST INTERROGATION REPORT.INTRODUCTION.

Subject was arrested in RECKLINGHAUSEN on 7 June '46. There were two reasons for this. These were:

1. He was denounced by an informant as having held an S.S. Rank.
- and 2. He was allegedly mentioned in the CROWCASS LIST as a Security Suspect.

PERSONAL HISTORY.

1. Subject was born in '98 on the Island of RUEGEN. Here he attended the Volksschule and later the Realschule for 3/4 yr. He then worked as an assistant at a grocery store in his home town until he was called-up for the Wehrmacht on Nov. '16. During the Great War he served in the ground staff of the Luftwaffe on the West Front. He was discharged in 1919 with the rank of Uffz. He then joined one of the numerous Freikorps which sprang-up in GERMANY at that time, known as ROSSBACH. He belonged to this for a year, being unable to find other employment.

ENTRY INTO THE SCHUPO - AUG. '21.

2. In Aug. '21 he joined the SIPO, (which was the SCHUPO, as it existed then).

An outline of his career in the Police follows below:

- a. Joined SIPO - Aug. '21. - Sent to HANAU a. MAIN.
- b. '22 transferred to FRANKFURT a. M. - Wachmeister.
- c. Promoted Oberwachmeister on '24.
- d. Sent to Police School at HANN. MUENDEN - '28 as Sport Instructor and also Instructor in State and Criminal Law. Promoted Leutnant '30.
- e. '31 transferred to SCHUPO Sport School at BERLIN - Acted as Sports' Instructor. Promoted Oberleutnant - Nov. '33.
- f. Transferred to RECKLINGHAUSEN in '35. Promoted Hauptmann - April '36.

CONTINUED TO PAGE THREE/AUG. '39 SUBJECT WAS SENT.

ACTIVITIES DURING THE WAR.

3. a. Aug. '39 Subject was sent with 'Polizei Bereitschaft' (consisting of SCHUTPO only) No. 1 to BRAGUE. Here their work consisted of guarding wire-less stations, post-offices, and other municipal buildings.
- b. Sent back to RECKLINGHAUSEN in Feb. '41 where he carried on with his ordinary SCHUTPO activities until Aug. '41 when sent to WARSAW and then the Central Front in RUSSIA. In RUSSIA he belonged to 'Polizei Reg. Mitte'. The work of this regt. consisted of guarding the security of the rear areas, e.g. guarding roads and municipal buildings; rounding-up stray RUSSIAN Soldiers in woods etc. Promoted Major ca Feb. '42. Xmas '43 promoted Oberstlt.
- i. Ca Aug. '43 he was sent back to GERMANY to ZAMBEN where he worked as a Police Instructor until mid Feb. '44. From March '44 - May '44 Subject's Police Regt. was directly engaged in fighting on the RUSSIAN Front, during which it suffered up to 80% losses.
- j. May '44 sent back to a Truppenübungsplatz near FRANKFURT a. d. ODER. Here he was i/c A.U.A., (Reserve Training) Regt. 14. This regt. was made up of GERMAN SCHUTPO Officers and N.C.O's with UKRAINIAN "volunteers" forming the main number of its members. It was to be known as FELDVOELKISCHES S.S. and the Officers were given S.S. ranks in addition to their ordinary Police ranks. Subject himself was therefore known as Police Oberstleut. und S.S. Ostab F. BINZ. The regt. was not put into action however, as it did not receive sufficient equipment and was not fully trained.
- k. Ca-mid '44 Subject was sent to M - GLADNACH, where he reported for duty, but no employment was found for him. Dec. '44 he was run-over by a GERMAN tank in the dark and taken to hospital at first in RHEIDT and later in RUEHL HAUSEN, THOERINGIA. Ca two months later he was recalled to BERLIN from where he was sent to ITALY.
- l. Here he was put in charge of a newly formed mixed ITALIAN - GERMAN regt. His task was to keep open the D's of C behind the front, guard oil-wells and keep open the road to GENOA. With the last AMERICAN break-through, Subject's regt. retreated together with the rest of the Wehrmacht and Subject was taken P.W. near MILAN ca end April '45.

CONTINUED TO PAGE FOUR/SUBJECT WAS THEN KEEPT.

(over)

POST CAPTIVITY ACTIVITIES.

4. Subject was then kept for varying periods in four different P.W. Camps. These were at FISA and FLORENCE from where he was transported back to a camp near MUNICH and finally to a small village near MANOVAR, where he was discharged by D.C.U. No. 42 in Sept. '45. He then made his way home to RECKLINGHAUSEN where he reported a few days later at the Labour Exchange. On enquiring as to whether he could be considered for employment with the Police he was sent to the F.S.S. in RECKLINGHAUSEN where he was interrogated for two hours and told that he would hear later from them. Subsequently, he reported to the same F.S.S. one month later but was told that he would just have to wait, for his case to be fully investigated.

JOURNEY TO HEIDELBERG.

5. At his wife's suggestion Subject went to convalesce with some relatives of hers at HEIDELBERG. He intended spending either two weeks there, or at the most one month, if he enjoyed it. The idea was, that as food was more plentiful there, a holiday would help him to recover from his run-down condition, which was caused very largely by under-nourishment. Finally because of the magnificent reception he received in HEIDELBERG and following repeated requests from his wife's aunt and uncle, THOMAS and HERMANN HIPPIUS he extended his stay there to 5 1/2 weeks. This was from 8 April until 14 May '46.

FINAL ACTIVITIES AND ARREST.

6. On his arrival back in RECKLINGHAUSEN Subject reported straight-away both at the Labour Exchange and Food Office there. He was then offered a job by the Arbeitsamt at a factory in GELSENKIRCHEN. His wife, however, wanted him to remain in RECKLINGHAUSEN, and therefore he did not go any further with it. Subject's wife was still in very bad health owing to the after-effects of a miscarriage which she had in beginning '45. Because of her poor physical condition, Subject spent most of his time at home, looking after his two children and shopping etc. He was arrested on Fri. 7 June whilst he was at home.

SPECIAL POINTS.

7. Subject was most emphatic in denying all knowledge of GERMAN atrocities in CZECHOSLOVAKIA, POLAND and RUSSIA. In his endeavours to convince the interrogator that this was true, he even went so far as to say that not only had he never seen any traces of GERMAN bestiality in the a/n countries, but that also he had never had any such occurrences reported to him by any of the men under his command.

CONTINUED TO PAGE FIVE/SUBJECT'S BEHAVIOUR DURING

CONCLUSIONS.

8. Subject's behaviour during this interrogation was not that of a man with a clear conscience. Rather did it strike one that he was attempting to hide something, which he was frightened to admit. The exact nature however, of what he was trying to hide was not revealed.
9. Subject's statements, as made so far, are not considered satisfactory.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That enquiries be made in RECKLINGHAUSEN on the following points:
 - a. That it be checked at the Polizei Praesidium whether or not BINZ has ever had an official S.S. rank apart from the one he mentions as having held for a few months only (para. 3 d).
 - b. That the general character of the man be ascertained by questioning former colleagues of his in the SCHUPO at RECKLINGHAUSEN.
 - c. That his house in RECKLINGHAUSEN be thoroughly searched with a view to finding documents and letters of Subject. At the same time his wife should be interrogated as to what kind of a man her husband is and also of the exact circumstances of his journey to HEIDELBERG in the AMERICAN ZONE (ref. para. 5).

032 CIVILIAN INTERROGATION CAMP.

B.A.O.R.

21 June '46.

Signed.....Sgt.
M. KARET.

TO:

APPENDIX 'A' - INVESTIGATION ON THE GROUND.

(over)

APPENDIX 'A'.INVESTIGATION ON THE GROUND.

The following were the results of an investigation on the ground in RECKLINGHAUSEN, carried out by the interrogator, in accordance with the recommendations on page 5.

A. Interrogation of Subject's wife FRIDERUN nee HIPPIUS.

1. Subject's wife was interrogated in some detail and confirmed the substance of her husband's story. She appeared to be quite frank and truthful.

B. Documents and Letters found in Subject's house.

1. Amongst the documents were:
 1. Subject's Marriage Certificate.
 2. Various Doctors' Certificates.
 3. A Polioe Anmeldung and Abmeldung Certificate - stamped on 8 April and 14 May '46 respectively, at HEIDELBERG.
 4. A Reisegeheimigung dated 12 April, '46 and stamped at HEIDELBERG.

The a/m documents all confirmed the statements made by Subject whilst under interrogation. Nothing of special interest was found amongst the letters, apart from the fact that these too verified his post-capitulation movements.

C. Further Information gathered from 68INT. TEAM
ex-59 F.S.S. RECKLINGHAUSEN.

1. It was learned from 68 INT. TEAM. that Subject had been denounced by an informant from GELSENKIRCHEN as having held an S.S. Rank. (In his statement so far, Subject has admitted this for one short period only, - see para. 3 j. - At the present time, an attempt is being made by 68 INT. TEAM to confirm this in the documents which have survived at the Pol. Praes. RECKLINGHAUSEN).
2. Following info. that Subject was named in the CROWCASS War Criminals list, a visit was made by the interrogator to the P.S.O's. Office in RECKLINGHAUSEN. Here it was confirmed that Subject was indeed listed with the appended info. that he was: Oberstleut. der Polizei and a 'Security Suspect'. His index no. is Cr File No. 23237.

CONTINUED TO PAGE SEVEN/PARA. D. QUESTIONING OF POLICE OFFICIALS

D. Questioning of Police Officials who know Subject.

1. Unfortunately, owing to the very limited amount of time which was available to the interrogator and also to the fact that most of the Police Officers were away from the Pol. Praes. on duty, it was possible to question very few of them only, who had any knowledge about Subject. One Officer who did remember him, however, was Oblt. FREYTAG who is i/c the personnel dept. of the SCHUPC at RECKLINGHAUSEN. He declared, that BINZ had been a very conscientious Police Officer, (Hauptmann before the war), and had always enjoyed a good reputation, as far as his work was concerned. Of his activities during the war however he could give no info. Another Police Wachtmeister who was on duty at 68 INT. TEAM H.Q., stated that he had been in BINZ's Revier ca 1936. He declared, that Subject, had always been a strict disciplinarian with his men but had normally been considered just in his decisions.

CONCLUSIONS.

1. Subject has not created a good impression during his interrogation. Although outwardly candid it is considered that in actual fact he is of a sly disposition, and not in any way to be fully trusted.
2. One illustration of his unwillingness to tell the truth, was in his denial of knowledge that the GERMANS had carried out War Crimes in CZECHOSLOVAKIA and RUSSIA. (See para. 7 - Special Points).
3. A possible indication as to his character, is that upwards of some two hundred pornographic photographs were found in his possession.

RECOMMENDATION

1. In the absence of other evidence; it is recommended that the source of the CROWCASS trace be enquired into and that in the meantime B. should remain in custody.
2. Subject to the result of para. 1 above, there appears to be no other reason for detaining him any longer.

032 CIVILIAN INTERROGATION CAMP.

B.A.O.R.

25 June, 1946.

Signed..... Sgt.
M. KARET.

TO APPENDIX 'B' - List of men who can give information on Subject's Activities During the War.

(over)

APPENDIX 'D'

In order to assist in checking-up on Subject's activities during the war the following list of names has been obtained from him. Those men were all stationed with Subject at various times during the war, and wherever possible he has been made to give their present whereabouts. If they are at present working for the Police once again, this is also recorded below.

1. These men were all with Subject during the fighting at the front in RUSSIA:

NAME.	BELIEVED WHEREABOUTS.
Pol. Oberst. Montan.	...
.. Oberlt. Höfling.	...
.. Major Nagel.	...
.. Major Stahr.	RECKLINGHAUSEN-DUER, where he is probably again employed by the SCHUPO.
.. Hauptmn. Salzinger.	MUNICH. Possibly again employed by the SCHUPO.
.. Rev. Ltn. Kochlin.	LUEBECK. Possibly again employed by the SCHUPO.
.. Zugw. Lüthert. (Lüht).	LUEBECK. Possibly again employed by the SCHUPO.

2. Some of the a/n men were also with Subject later when he was transferred to behind the Front in RUSSIA and the following were men who joined him then.

Pol. Hauptmn. Schweder	HAMBURG.
.. Wolf.	RECKLINGHAUSEN.
.. Hartwich.	Unknown.
.. Selbach	WICRZHEIA.
.. Sturmat.	RECKLINGHAUSEN. Again in the employ of SCHUPO.

3. The following men were with Subject in CZECHOSLOVAKIA:

Pol. Oberst. Lossen.	HAMBURG.
.. Maj. Stolpmann.	RECKLINGHAUSEN-DUER.

CONTINUED TO PAGE NINE. / PARA. 3 MAJ. LUTZ (A BAVARIAN)

NAME.RELIEVED WHEREABOUTS.

Pol. Maj. Lutz. (a Bavarian).
 .. Hauptm. Woytowitz.
 .. Lt. Lulgering.
 .. Hauptm. Stehr.
 .. Oberlt. Fischer.
 .. Ltn. Ehrlo.
 Hornoff.
 .. Hauptm. Bendor.
 .. Oberlt. Schäper.
 .. Hauptw. Tapan.

AUGSBURG.
 Unknown.
 RECKLINGHAUSEN-DATTELN.
 RECKLINGHAUSEN.
 DORTMUND.
 RECKLINGHAUSEN.
 RECKLINGHAUSEN.
 RECKLINGHAUSEN.
 HERFORD.
 HANN. MÜNDE.

UNTERFÜHRER.

Pol. Hauptw. Schwenker.
 Oberwachtn. Kucharski.
 .. Peter.
 .. Hühner zu Bentrup.
 .. Rothmann.
 .. Nickol.

RECKLINGHAUSEN.
 RECKLINGHAUSEN.
 RECKLINGHAUSEN.
 RECKLINGHAUSEN.
 RECKLINGHAUSEN.
 STETTIN.